

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for preventing tipping of a flower pot formed of an open top container having a generally vertical wall and a closed bottom for resting the pot upon the ground in an area where the pot may be subjected to lateral forces, such as wind or physical contacts which can tip the pot, comprising:

providing a retainer in the form of the shape of a vertically-elongated, stiff wire rod with its upper end bent downwardly into a hairpin-like formation to form a downwardly opening hook portion;

engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot with the rod extending downwardly from the hook portion closely adjacent to the pot wall and into the ground a sufficient distance to hold the pot against tipping.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, and forming said retainer out of a stiff, but relatively springy wire material, and arranging the hook portion to receive and resiliently hold the upper edge portion of the wall of the pot.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, and including providing a second retainer, similar in shape to said first mentioned retainer, and engaging the hook portion of the second retainer with the upper portion of the pot wall at a location spaced from the first mentioned retainer and then into the ground for temporarily holding the pot in a fixed position upon the ground at spaced-apart locations.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, and wherein said pot has a downwardly tapered wall, and including arranging the stem closely adjacent to the side wall of the pot, at an angle corresponding to the angle of the pot wall.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, and with said hook portion including an elongated free leg, and pushing said leg into potting material contained in the pot when engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot.

6. A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot which is formed with a generally vertically arranged wall and a substantially closed bottom when the pot is arranged upon the ground in a location where the pot may be subjected to laterally-directed forces, such as wind forces or physical contact forces, which tend to tip the pot, comprising:

an elongated rod formed of a stiff wire-like material and being of a length greater than the height of the pot for arranging the rod vertically adjacent the pot;

the rod having an upper portion reversely bent into a downwardly opening hook for grasping and holding an upper edge portion of the pot; and

the rod having a lower stem portion of sufficient length for extending into the ground a sufficient distance to hold the rod and the pot against tipping due to said laterally directed forces.

7. A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, and said rod material being springy for resiliently grasping and holding an upper edge portion of the wall defining the pot within the hook.

8. A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, wherein said pot is formed with an upper rim having an outwardly extending band encircling the upper rim, and said retainer stem having a lower straight portion and an upper end portion bent outwardly of the lower stem portion for fitting around, and receiving, the adjacent portion of the pot band.

9. A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook being vertically elongated, and said rod material being springy for receiving and resiliently gripping an upper edge portion of the wall of the pot.

10. A retainer as defined in claim 9, and said stem lower portion terminating in an end shaped to penetrate the ground.

11. A retainer as defined in claim 9, and said hook having a free leg formed with a free end shaped to penetrate and extend into the material contained in the pot when the hook receives the upper edge portion of the pot.

12. A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook being formed by leg portions that extend downwardly and toward each other to provide between them a space for receiving an edge portion of a pot, and said wire-like material being sufficiently resilient so that said leg portions resiliently grip the pot portion positioned in the space between the leg portions.

13. A retainer as defined in claim 12, and said hook leg portions extending downwardly adjacent each other a considerable distance to form an elongated hair-pin like shape.

14. A retainer as defined in claim 13, and one of the hook portion legs being extended to form said stem portion and the other hook leg portion having a pointed free end for penetrating the contents of the pot when the hook portion holds the edge portion of the pot.